United Nations S/2009/532

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 October 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 13 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you regarding another serious violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). According to numerous reports, on 12 October 2009 at 20.30, an explosion took place in a civilian structure in the Lebanese village of Tayr Filsi, south of the Litani River. The house in question belonged to Hizbullah operative Abdel Nasser Issa and served as an arms storage facility of Hizbullah.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Hizbullah operatives sealed off the area and, as shown in available video footage attached to the electronic version of the present letter, used two trucks to remove evidence from the scene to the nearby village of Deir Qanoun. The removal of such evidence is markedly similar to the removal of arms by Hizbullah in the aftermath of the 16 July explosion in the village of Khirbat Silim, as mentioned in the investigation reports on the matter delivered to the relevant parties and the reports of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat to the Security Council.

Occurring only three months after the explosion of the Hizbullah arms depot in the village of Khirbat Silim, yesterday's explosion is another example of the fact that the Hizbullah terrorist organization possesses illegal weapons in Lebanon south of the Litani River, in violation of resolution 1701 (2006), as it builds a military infrastructure within the civilian population.

The aforementioned incidents leave no doubt regarding Hizbullah's modus operandi of placing its military weapons and facilities in civilian villages and houses. Such use of civilians as human shields endangers their safety and Israel calls upon the Government of Lebanon to take decisive measures in order to stop the rearmament of Hizbullah south of the Litani River. The current efforts by certain members of the Lebanese Armed Forces to turn a blind eye to Hizbullah's activities promote neither peace nor stability in Lebanon, Israel or the region. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for all activity that takes place within its territory, including that of Hizbullah south of the Litani River.

Israel requested that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon immediately commence an investigation into the Tayr Filsi incident and provide the relevant parties with its conclusions. Israel has considerable reason to believe that Hizbullah, as well as elements of the Lebanese Armed Forces, sought to stall the immediate investigation of the Tayr Filsi explosion in an effort to permit Hizbullah to remove evidence.

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It is two weeks before the issuance of the Secretary-General's report on resolution 1701 (2006), and Israel trusts that the report will give the appropriate attention to these incidents and the situation south of the Litani River. More broadly, this report should also address key issues related to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), including the rearmament of Hizbullah and the unimplemented arms embargo.

I should be grateful if this information would be considered in preparation of the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful as well if you could have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative